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K4 Transceiver Update

Message from Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ

We shipped small numbers of our first production K4s in late September and in October. Less than we would like, but at least a few are making it out the door. We'll be getting more out in November.

Our production rate will be slower than we like in November due to periodic supplier delays, production stoppages, and as we continue to adjust our production and test processes (both at the factory and with our vendors). As we get more material in house to buffer production and stabilize product flow from our vendors, we'll be able to get a better feel for our production rate and will be able to post estimates of order ship dates. At the moment, among other things, we are waiting for additional K4 finished sheet metal deliveries from our in-state supplier. Please be patient with us as we work through this.

Initial K4 orders on the first several weeks were huge - especially on 5/16-17, both on the Web and at Dayton. (And K4 orders also remained strong during the following months.) The first shipping group K4 orders with deposits from the first days will take some time to work through and ship. We will email or call to notify everyone as their orders get close.

It has been a challenge dodging all of the unexpected obstacles we've encountered recently. COVID-19 shutdowns, supplier shutdowns, the CA Fires, and the resulting impacts on our staff, suppliers and overall efficiency have been challenging. We had to totally reconfigure our production and test areas for Covid-19 safety, adding protective barriers between workstations, ensuring clean airflow in the buildings, and limiting movement of personnel between sections of the company. Many of our team are also working from home due to COVID-19 requirements (including Wayne and myself, customer support, engineering, and most of our sales staff). All of this slows personal interaction and efficiency, but we are working through it.

The CA fires had a big impact in August and September. Two of our engineers lost their homes and radios, and a third came close, with the fire coming within a mile of his location. Fortunately, everyone is OK and back at work and there is no ongoing fire threat locally. The Elecraft HQ and factory in Watsonville, CA, is far from where the active fires were and was never at risk. It's in an open industrial park far from the forests and near the Monterey Bay coast. Our inventory is safe, and our production and test teams are hard at work there.

Several of our local suppliers (machine shops, custom part suppliers etc.) had mandatory evacuations for several weeks as a precaution during local fires. Fortunately, their facilities were undamaged, but the evacuations increased delays getting parts finished and delivered to us as they restarted. Other suppliers have been hit by unexpected demand, causing some delays. Each day presents new challenges. So far, we've been able to work through each new surprise. Production startups are never boring!

We are in good financial shape with plenty of funds to run our operation and fund the K4 production. Amazingly, even during the COVID shutdowns in the spring, we continued to receive orders for -all- of our products at a strong rate. It looks like the extra time hams have had at home has increased interest in ham radio! As a result, we are still running with a strong backlog of orders for our regular products too, which are shipping daily. This has helped enormously.

We're working hard to get production stable and ramped up on K4s. Hopefully we'll be in a better position as we work through November. Please be especially patient with our sales team, as they do not know more than you see here and can't give out specific ship date estimates until we see production stabilize.

Thank you to everyone for your support and patience.

73,
Eric

If You're Up For Building...

If you want to try your hand at building, you can start off small with any of our mini-mod test kits. You'll get the full experience of building that includes selecting individual components, soldering them to circuit boards, winding toroids, and more. We have assembly manuals that are available for download so you can check them out before you make that commitment.



Dave Van Wallaghen, W8FGU

And, if you receive your kit and find yourself staring at the parts with glazed eyes, no worries! You can always contact Dave, W8FGU, who will help you get started. Just email Dave at support@elecraft.com. Dave is part of our Customer Support Team who specializes in our Classic Line.

You can check out our kits [here](#), and you'll find the manuals [here](#).

News & Updates

K3/K3S Upgrades and Options

We've heard from many of you that there is still interest in purchasing K3/K3S options and accessories that are out of stock or that we no longer offer. Please complete the K3/K3S Options Interest Form to select items that you're interested in purchasing. We plan to order materials for a last production run in November, so place your order now!

If you have completed the Interest form then we have your information. We will contact you as soon as we're ready to ship.

[K3/K3S Options Interest Form](#)

K4 Update

High-Performance Direct Sampling SDR



K4 Documentation Now Available

By Wayne Burdick, N6KR

If you're interested in the capabilities of the K4 transceiver, you might want to take a look at two user documents that are now available for download.

First, there's our [Introduction to the Elecraft K4](#).

This is a 40-page, full-color manual with dozens of illustrations highlighting the K4's user interface and features. The document's 8.5 x 14" form factor is uniquely suited to the K4, with illustrations that are virtually the same size as the front panel. A printed, spiral-bound copy of this manual will be included with the K4.

Next is the [K4's Built-In Operating Manual](#).

For review purposes, you can read this like any other .html file, using a web browser.

At the radio itself, the operating manual is accessed by taping the "?" icon at the lower left-hand corner of the screen. You can tap highlighted links to navigating

forwards/backwards, or search by entering text using the on-screen keyboard. The "LAST CTRL" button allows you to go directly to information pertaining to the control most recently used.

Additional documentation will be released soon, including the K4 Owner's Manual and the K4 Programmer's Reference.

How You Will Be Notified When Your K4 is Ready to Ship

A member of Elecraft Sales Team will contact you by email when your K4 is ready to ship. They will verify your shipping address and provide you with any additional information regarding your order.

If your email address has changed, please complete the [New Email Address Form here](#).

Listen for us on the air - We'll likely be on a K4!
Learn more about the K4 and pre-order [here](#).